

Will the broadcast flag interfere with consumers ability to make copies of DTV content for their personal use, either on personal video recorders or removable media?

The broadcast foag, in my opinion, will interfere with legitimate copying. The flag is either on or off -- how does the system differentiate between recording for time-shift viewing (a la Tivo) and recording to distribute? Copying bits is copying bits.

Would the digital flag interfere with consumers ability to send DTV content across networks, such as home digital networks connecting digital set top boxes, digital recorders, digital servers and digital display devices? Again, I don't see how it can limit infringing copying without limiting legitimate copying?

Would the broadcast flag requirement limit consumers ability to use their existing electronic equipment (equipment not built to look for the flag) or make it difficult to use older components with new equipment that is compliant with the broadcast flag standard?

Unless the content is encoded in such a way that one requires a broadcast-flag-aware decoder to partake of the content then no, I imagine it wouldn;t affect legacy devices.

Would a broadcast flag requirement limit the development of future equipment providing consumers with new options?

Yes, I think it would.

What will be the cost impact, if any, that a broadcast flag requirement would have on consumer electronics equipment?

Every feature and requirement adds to the cost.

Other Comments:

At this point, I think the technology has just made the current business model used by broadcast companies untenable and I don;t think that it's the government's responsibility to create legislation to protect an outdated business model.